

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A contents copying management system configured by connecting a contents copying apparatus and a copying management device by ~~way of~~ a network,

said contents copying apparatus comprising:

~~medium identifying information acquiring means for acquiring a controller~~
configured to acquire medium identifying information specific to and characterizing a recorded-contents-carrying an original recording medium;

~~apparatus identifying information acquiring means for acquiring the controller~~
further configured to acquire apparatus identifying information specific to and indicating said contents copying apparatus itself;

~~copying-related combination information transmitting means for transmitting a~~
first transmission/reception section that transmits said medium identifying information and said apparatus identifying information to said copying management device as copying-related combination information ~~at the time of copying said contents;~~

~~receiving means for receiving the first transmission/reception section further~~
receives copying authorizing information generated by said copying management device on the basis of said copying-related combination information at the time of accessing said copying management device, after transmitting said medium identifying information; and

~~control means for controlling the~~ the controller further configured to control
an operation of copying said contents in response to said copying authorizing
information;

said copying management device comprising:

~~memory means for registering and storing~~ a database that registers and stores
said copying-related combination information received from said contents copying
apparatus in advance;

~~copying authorizing information generating means for comparing a control~~
section configured to compare said copying-related combination information received
at the time of access by said contents copying apparatus with said copying-related
combination information registered in said ~~memory means~~ database in advance,
~~judging that judges~~ agreement or disagreement of said combinations of medium
identifying information and apparatus identifying information, ~~generating and that~~
generates copying authorizing information for authorizing an operation of copying the
contents in response to agreement of said combinations but ~~generating that generates~~
copying non-authorizing information for not authorizing any operation of copying the
contents in response to disagreement of said combinations; and

~~copying authorizing information transmitting means for transmitting a second~~
transmission/reception section that transmits said copying authorizing information to
said contents copying apparatus.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein

said ~~control means controls~~ controller is further configured to control reproduction of
said copied contents according to said copying authorizing information.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein
said medium identifying information is ~~dispersion~~ a characteristic of the printing
surface of said recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium produced at the time of
printing, ~~dispersion~~ information of the signals on the recording surface of said recorded-
contents-carrying original recording medium, the signals recorded on the recording surface,
or a combination of one or more of: ~~dispersion~~ the characteristic of the printing surface of
said recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium produced at the time of printing,
~~dispersion~~ information of the signals on the recording surface of said recorded-contents-
carrying original recording medium, or the signals recorded on the recording surface.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein
said ~~control means controls~~ controller is further configured to control copying of said
contents according to said copying authorizing information and displays a predetermined
warning image on a display ~~means~~ when copying is not authorized according to said copying
authorizing information.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein
said ~~memory means~~ database registers said medium identifying information according
to the title of said contents on a title by title basis when registering and storing in advance
said copying-related combination information received from said contents copying apparatus,
and

said ~~copying authorizing information generating means selects~~ control section is
further configured to select said medium identifying information to be compared according to
said title when it compares said copying-related combination information received at the time

of said access of said contents copying apparatus with said copying-related combination information registered in advance in said ~~memory means~~ database.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein
said ~~control means generates~~ controller is further configured to generate the contents to be copied, convoluting said medium identifying information and said apparatus identifying information into said contents, when copying said contents, and to control ~~controls~~ reproduction of said copied contents by taking out the medium identifying information and the apparatus identifying information from said copied contents, to transmit ~~transmitting~~ the combined information to said copying management device by ~~means of said copying-related combination information transmitting means and receiving~~ said first transmission/reaction section and to receive said copying authorizing information generated by said copying management device on the basis of the combination of the medium identifying information and apparatus identifying information ~~by the receiving means~~ when reproducing said copied contents.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein
said ~~control means generates~~ controller is further configured to generate the contents to be copied, convoluting said medium identifying information and said apparatus identifying information into said contents, and to additionally stores store the medium identifying information and the apparatus identifying information in said recording/reproducing apparatus when carrying out an operation of copying said contents and ~~it confirms~~ to confirm if said copied contents are authorized to be copied according to the copying authorizing information obtained by taking out the medium identifying information and the apparatus identifying information, ~~transmitting~~ to transmit the combined information to said copying

management device by ~~means of said copying-related combination information transmitting means and receiving~~ first transmission/reception section to receive said copying authorizing information generated by said copying management device on the basis of the combination of the medium identifying information and apparatus identifying information ~~by the receiving means~~ when the copied contents are not reproduced.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein
said ~~control means encodes~~ controller is further configured to encode the contents, using said apparatus identifying information as key, when carrying out an operation of copying said contents.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A copying management device comprising:
~~copying-related combination information receiving means for receiving a~~
transmission/reception section that receives medium identifying information specific to and characterizing a recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium and apparatus identifying information specific to and indicating a contents copying apparatus itself from said contents copying apparatus as copying-related combination information at the time of copying said contents by ~~way of~~ a network;

~~memory means for registering and storing a database that registers and stores~~ said copying-related combination information received from said contents copying apparatus in advance;

~~copying-authorizing information generating means for comparing a control section~~
configured to compare said copying-related combination information received at the time of access by said contents copying apparatus with said copying-related combination information registered in said ~~memory means~~ database in advance, ~~determining to determine~~ agreement or

disagreement of said combinations of medium identifying information and apparatus identifying information, ~~generating to generate~~ copying authorizing information for authorizing an operation of copying the contents in response to agreement of said combinations but ~~generating to generate~~ copying non-authorizing information for not authorizing any operation of copying the contents in response to disagreement of said combinations; and

~~copying authorizing information transmitting means for transmitting the~~
transmission/reception section further transmits said copying authorizing information to said contents copying apparatus, wherein

said copying management device controlling copying of said contents by said contents copying apparatus from said recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium according to said copying authorizing information with respect to each recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A copying management method comprising:

a copying-related combination information receiving ~~step of~~ operation receiving medium identifying information specific to and characterizing a recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium and apparatus identifying information specific to and indicating a contents copying apparatus itself from said contents copying apparatus as copying-related combination information at the time of copying said contents by ~~way of~~ a network;

~~a storing step of~~ registering and storing said copying-related combination information received from said contents copying apparatus in advance;

a copying authorizing information generating ~~step of~~ operation comparing said copying-related combination information received at the time of access by said contents copying apparatus with said copying-related combination information registered in said

memory step in advance, determining agreement or disagreement of said combinations of medium identifying information and apparatus identifying information, generating copying authorizing information for authorizing an operation of copying the contents in response to agreement of said combinations but generating copying non-authorizing information for not authorizing any operation of copying the contents in response to disagreement of said combinations; and

a copying authorizing information transmitting ~~step of operation~~ transmitting said copying authorizing information to said contents copying apparatus, wherein

said copying management method controlling copying of said contents by said contents copying apparatus from said recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium according to said copying authorizing information with respect to each recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A contents copying apparatus comprising:

~~medium identifying information acquiring means for acquiring~~ a controller configured to acquire medium identifying information specific to and characterizing a recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium;

~~apparatus identifying information acquiring means for acquiring~~ the controller further configured to acquire apparatus identifying information specific to and indicating said contents copying apparatus itself;

~~copying-related combination information transmitting means for transmitting a~~ transmission/reception section configured to transmit said medium identifying information and said apparatus identifying information to a copying management device connected to it by ~~way of~~ a network as copying-related combination information ~~at the time of copying said contents;~~

~~receiving means for receiving~~ the transmission/reception section further configured to receive copying authorizing information generated after registration of said copying-related combination information by said copying management device by comparing said copying-related combination information transmitted at the time of a new access to said copying management device, after the transmitting said medium identifying information, with said copying-related combination information registered in advance, and ~~authorizing~~ to authorize an operation of copying the contents in response to agreement of said combinations of medium identifying information and apparatus identifying information but not authorizing any operation of copying the contents in response to disagreement of said combinations from said copying management device; and

~~control means for controlling~~ the controller further configured to control the operation of copying according to said copying authorizing information.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A contents copying method comprising:

a medium identifying information acquiring ~~step of~~ operation acquiring medium identifying information specific to and characterizing a recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium;

an apparatus identifying information acquiring ~~step of~~ operation acquiring apparatus identifying information specific to and indicating said contents copying apparatus itself;

a copying-related combination information transmitting ~~step of~~ operation transmitting said medium identifying information and said apparatus identifying information to a copying management device connected to it by ~~way of~~ a network as copying-related combination information at the time of copying said contents;

a receiving ~~step of~~ operation receiving copying authorizing information generated after registration of said copying-related combination information by said copying

management device by comparing said copying-related combination information transmitted at the time of a new access to said copying management device with said copying-related combination information registered in advance, and authorizing an operation of copying the contents in response to agreement of said combinations of medium identifying information and apparatus identifying information but not authorizing any operation of copying the contents in response to disagreement of said combinations from said copying management device; and

a control ~~step~~ of operation controlling the operation of copying said contents according to said copying authorizing information.